

legislation to reignite the United Nations resolution which has not been implemented to create a peace commission comprised of women to be involved in the Middle East peace process and peace processes around the world.

I commend the fact that there is an envoy appointed by the President, but I would also commend the names of former Presidents Jimmy Carter, William Clinton and George Bush, and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to be engaged in this process that should not be a start and stop, but rather an ongoing process for peace.

Women bring a unique perspective to peace, and this Oslo, Norway summit, in cooperation with the Nobel Peace Institute, is imperative.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I ask for an investigation into the findings of the weapons of mass destruction, and I believe we can do this in the name of truth.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### FIGHTING AUTISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, normally when I come down here, I bring a litany of pictures, a poster, to show the children who have been damaged, their parents believe, by the mercury that has been used in children's vaccines.

Most Americans do not know this, but since the 1930s, many if not most of our vaccinations for children have contained a product called thimerosal, which is partially mercury, and Members know mercury is toxic to the human brain. As children started getting more and more vaccinations required by school boards across the country, the children got more and more mercury injected into their bodies. My grandson received nine shots in one day as an infant, and seven of those contained mercury. Within a matter of a couple of days he became autistic.

People do not know what autism is unless they have experienced it. He ran around flapping his arms. He was a normal child, would walk, talk, smile and laugh like other children, but he flapped his arms, ran around banging his head against the wall, lost his ability to communicate, and he would not look you in the eye anymore. He has had constant diarrhea or constipation, alternating between the two.

Parents across the country have experienced this. I have received thousands of letters from parents who have autistic children who are convinced that the mercury in these vaccines,

which has a cumulative effect on the brain, was a contributing factor to their autism.

About 10 years ago, 1 in 10,000 children were adjudged to be autistic. Now it is 1 in 200. We have a 50-fold increase. It is the biggest epidemic that we can remember as far as children are concerned, and yet the American public is not aware of it. We really have to do something about it.

Back in the 1980s, in order to protect the pharmaceutical companies, we passed the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund Program, and it protected the pharmaceutical companies against lawsuits, but in exchange there was money being put into a fund from each vaccination to take care of those children or adults damaged by vaccinations. It now has \$1.8 billion in it. It was supposed to be a nonadversarial program, but it has become very adversarial.

The parents of these children who have had to mortgage their homes and sell their property to help their children, are going bankrupt to take care of their children, have not been able to get a dime out of the fund. And many of those parents did not get in within the 3-year time limit the law required because they were not aware that we had vaccination injury compensation program, and many were not aware that their children were adjudged autistic.

Mr. Speaker, we have to open that program up so that every parent has access to the fund. If we can prove that mercury was the culprit in their children's autism, they ought to be able to get funds from that fund to take care of their family and all of the expenses that they are incurring.

We need to get more money for the IDEA program to help with remedial education for these children that can be helped. If we do not deal with it right now, in 10-15 years when these children become adults, we are going to have a terrible problem because they will not be productive citizens. Many will have to be institutionalized, becoming a burden on the taxpayers. The parents of these children do not want to face that.

Mr. Speaker, we really need to address this issue in both the House and the other body to make sure that every parent has access to the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund and has a fair hearing, their fair day in court.

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#### GIs FRUSTRATED BY LACK OF RESPONSE TO MEDICAL NEED IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this weekend in our local newspaper and across this country, a major story ap-

peared with a photo that is unforgettable, a photo of Sergeant David Borell and Sergeant First Class Bryan Pacholski, both deployed outside of Baghdad, both members of the 323rd Military Police Company based in Toledo, Ohio, the center of my district. The title of the article is "Children's Suffering Wounds GIs; Toledo Soldier Frustrated by Lack of Response to Medical Need." I am going to include this article, the full article, in the RECORD tonight along with Sergeant Borell's comments; also a letter I am sending to Secretary Rumsfeld this evening asking that based on these reports out of Iraq, I am requesting a personal meeting with the Secretary to propose an expedited schedule by the United States to establish temporary field hospitals in Iraq, perhaps in concert with our Arab allies, serving the wounded and the suffering.

With Baghdad's early fall, sufficient funds have been appropriated by our Appropriations Committee to accommodate these facilities. We can work with other organizations around the world, but without question the United States is in the lead now. It is important that we rise to this moral imperative. It is our sacred obligation to do so.

Let me report what Sergeant David Borell says, who, by the way, should get a promotion by the Department of Defense for his honor. He works close to a sign that reads: "Working Together With the Iraqi People for Peace and Prosperity." That sign is placed near the North Gate to Sustainer Army Airfield northwest of Baghdad. He says, "The implications of those words, 'Working Together With the Iraqi People for Peace and Prosperity,' it would seem, are far-reaching. Perhaps even all-encompassing. To me, it would seem to say that we, the Americans, are here to help. Help restore the Iraqi economy, help restore law and order, help the Iraqi people build anew that which has been taken from them. And, surely, help them in their times of dire need. Help them when there are truly none others for them to turn to."

The photo says it all: "Sergeant First Class Bryan Pacholski comforts Sergeant David Borell, both from Toledo." Why is he comforting Sergeant Borell? And it says, Sergeant Borell "saw something that flies in the face of every moral lesson I have ever learned from my leadership in the military." He says, "I used to be proud of what I'm doing and of being an American soldier, but after today I wonder if I will still be able to carry the title soldier with any pride at all. Or simply with the knowledge that a soldier couldn't even help three small severely burned children." He says, "We came here to depose Saddam Hussein, a mission we accomplished. But the second mission was one of greater importance and purpose, to be part of a force that would serve to provide the Iraqi people with a freedom that they have never known." It seemed to him to be the noblest mission of all. In almost 14 years